

Refugees and Migrants: the inconvenient truths **Journalism against bias and stereotypes**

*Tuesday, 4th October 2016
11.00 - 14.00
Room Magritte
Residence Palace, Brussels*

Introduction

Migrants and refugees have suddenly jumped to the top of the news agenda. During 2015 television screens and newspapers have been filled with stories about the appalling loss of life and suffering of thousands of people escaping war in the Middle East or oppression and poverty in Africa and elsewhere.

Migrants and refugees are a vulnerable minority who can quickly become scapegoats for the ills of society: social and economic decline, crime and unemployment, pressure on welfare services and lack of security; and what is unquestionable is that media play a crucial role in shaping a healthy public opinion on these issues.

The risk is to have a media coverage dominated by loose language, political bias, hate-speech, stereotyping and social exclusion of refugees and migrants, which lead to a climate of intolerance, xenophobia and racism.

The aim of this roundtable is to build a constructive dialogue between the media and organisations, NGOs and activists working with refugees and migrants, many of which provide vital information for journalists, and to draft a practical Guide on how best to communicate with journalists and media. At the same time the debate highlights the good and the bad journalistic practices in covering migration and refugee crisis.

Good journalism shapes a better world.

- 11.00 Welcome – **Ricardo Gutierrez**, EFJ *Secretary General*
- 11.10 Opening address – **Giovanni Melogli**, Alliance Internationale de Journalistes
- 11.20 **Roundtable - *Reporting on refugees and migrants: a challenge for journalism***
- Martina Chichi** – Coordinator , Associazione Carta di Roma (Italy)
Giannis Kotsifos – The Charter of Idomeni (Greece)
Efthymia Koutsokosta - Euronews
Paolo Celot – EAVI Secretary General
Panagiotis Antonopoulos - InterMediaKT (Greece)
Martin Glewe - Wisamar (Germany)
Alessio Pisano – Journalist , ANSA (Italy)
László Hartai - Moving Image and Media Education Association (Hungary)
Gabor Nemes – Journalist Klubradio – (Hungary)
- 12.30 **Roundtable - *Organisations working with refugees and migrants, and media: how they can help each other***
- Maeve Patterson** - UNHCR – UN Refugee Agency
Ryan Schroeder - IOM – International Organisation for Migration
Giampiero Costantini – Euroform (Italy)
Antonela Kotsani - InterMediaKT (Greece)
Mitja Bukovec - Novo Mesto (Slovenia)
- 13.40 Closing remarks and outcome of the meeting – **Renate Schroeder** (Director EFJ) and **Jean-Paul Marthoz** (Journalist)

Other participants

Adeline Hulin – UNESCO
Jaakko Uoti - Finnish Cultural Institute
Johanna Dwyer - Aqua Publica Europea
Mari Sol PÉREZ GUEVARA - European Commission

A light lunch will follow the debate



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